

Return Migration Intentions to Latvia, Based on Recent Survey of Emigrants

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IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ



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Outline

- Recent survey of emigrants from Latvia:
 - Challenges
 - Approaches
 - The questionnaire
 - The outcomes
- Return intentions
 - How many plan to move [permanently] back to Latvia within 6 months / within 5 years / in the old age?
 - Which categories of emigrants are more likely to return?

Recent survey of emigrants from Latvia

- Conducted within ESF-funded project “**The emigrant communities of Latvia**” (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology & Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Latvia)
- Main target group – the “New diaspora”: About 260 000 persons who left Latvia since the beginning of this century and currently live abroad
- Main destinations: UK, Ireland, Germany, Nordic countries (especially Norway)...
- ...but also other EU-15 countries, US & Canada
- + the “Old diaspora”

The Survey: The challenges & the approaches (1)

- Many countries
- Several waves of emigration
- Two-plus language groups
- Heterogeneous in terms of education
- Not possible to reach all important segments of the target group without using **a lot of different web resources and information channels : social networks, news portals, printed media, Latvian embassies, emigrants' organisations...**

The Survey: The challenges & the approaches (2)

- How to motivate them to begin answering the questionnaire?
 - *massive info-campaign;*
 - *giving them a **voice**;*
 - *stressing that we want to understand and help solve **their problems**;*
 - *choice between 20- min. and 30-min. versions; possibility to interrupt and come back*
- How to keep them “in” to the end?
 - *invest **heavily** in the questionnaire design (incl. section titles)*
- Lots of questions you want to ask, but you can't do all of them. How to choose?

The Survey: The challenges & the approaches (3)

- Do the respondents differ from non-respondents and in how?
 - Men are somewhat (not strongly) under-represented
 - Russian-speakers are under-represented
 - Low-educated are under-represented
 - Response rates differ across countries (e.g. higher in the Nordic countries than in the UK & Ireland)
- How, then, to make sure your results are representative?
 - using *weights* based on *external sources* (from host countries, Eurostat, OECD) on distribution of emigrants by host country, gender, age, duration of stay, education level
- Important: to have really large numbers (thousands!) of respondents even from the under-represented groups

The Survey: The structure of the questionnaire

- Moving abroad: when, where, why, with whom?
- Occupation: before moving, after moving, now
- Subjective well-being abroad
- Family and friends in Latvia and abroad
- Household financial situation
- You and Latvia
- Use of languages (in Latvia and abroad)
- Education and lifelong learning
- Your children
- Participation in emigrant organizations and forums
- Main information channels used
- Return to Latvia – pros and cons
- You and institutions in the host country

The Survey: The outcomes

- Preparation: January – July 2014
- Online: August – October, 2014
- 14 000 respondents from 118 countries in 2.5 months
- More than 9 000 fully completed questionnaires, about 5 000 partially completed (containing sufficient amount of information for analysis)
- More 3 man-years spent answering the questionnaire

Return intentions

How many of the “new” (2000-2014) emigrants plan to move [permanently] back to Latvia?

- “Definitely yes” or “probably yes”:
- 17% within 5 years (incl. 4% within 6 months)
- Another 17% upon retirement
- Possibly, given the right circumstances:
- 30% within 5 years

Which categories of emigrants are more likely to return within 5 years?

- Other things equal, more likely to return:
- Males
- Ethnic Latvians
- Under 30 years of age (excl. students)
- More recent emigrants
- Those not using their education/ qualification at work
- Those facing financial difficulties
- Those having real estate, business or family in Latvia
- Those living in countries of former USSR and (among males) in Ireland

Which categories of emigrants are more likely to return within 5 years?

- Other things equal, more likely to return
- Those who in Latvia lived in rural areas
- Among men: those without higher education
- Among women: those with higher education

Thank you for attention!

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- *Project website:*
- <http://migracija.lv/inenglish>